Promotion of Ayurveda

1453. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) with growing interest in alternative medicines, specially Ayurveda, what steps are being taken to promote it; and

(b) what is the mechanism to ensure the quality of Ayurvedic drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Government has implemented schemes to support strengthening of existing Ayurveda infrastructure in the country for improving the standards of education, research, drugs and health delivery. Centrally Sponsored Schemes have been amended to provide financial assistance to the States for improvement in the training, drug testing and health care facilities. Under the policy initiative of mainstreaming and integration of AYUSH, allopathic hospitals including PHCs, CHCs and District hospitals are supported to set up Ayurveda facilities. Print and Audio-visual publicity materials are prepared and distributed and health melas/exhibitions are organized and supported. Schemes for promotion of use of information technology and AYUSH interventions in public health have been taken up in the Eleventh Plan. Promotion of Ayurveda at international level has also been taken up by deputing Ayurveda experts to participate in international conferences/seminars etc., and to undertake teaching programmes. at foreign institutions and by supporting entrepreneurs' participation in international fairs and exhibitions on traditional medicine.

(b) Ayurveda drugs can only be manufactured on commercial scale after the manufacturing unit and the products to be manufactured- for sale are licensed under Drugs and Cosmetics Act. It is mandatory for manufacturers to follow pharmacopoeial standards of raw material and to display the true list and quantity of ingredients on the label or in the leaflets inserted in the package. Good Manufacturing Practices are mandatory for the manufacturers and the licenses of the defaulters are either not renewed or cancelled. State Drug Licensing Authorities have been directed to enforce provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act in respect of ensuring quality of drugs.

Declining standards of dental education

†1454. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Dental Health has expressed deep concern over decline in the academic standards of dental colleges in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that mushrooming of dental colleges in the country by avoiding quality has been pointed out as a fatal situation for dental education; and

(c) if so, the views of Government in this regard together with the complete details thereof?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.